

**From:** tom luther  
**To:** Ms. Renata B. Heese  
**Date:** 1/11/02 7:55am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement (Support)

Dear Ms. Heese:

I am writing in grudging support of the recent settlement of the long-running antitrust lawsuit between the U.S. Department of Justice, state attorneys general and Microsoft Corporation. Reno's abuse of the DoJ as a political tool should rightfully embarrass supporters of so called anti-trust legislation. It is impossibly broad and famous for the political process used to select victims. Microsoft is only the latest example of what is wrong with the DoJ, DC, and the anti-trust laws that cripple the economy. I am disappointed that some have decided to further pursue this baseless case. But I am certainly not surprised at their avarice, or their willingness to use bad law to line their pockets.

The settlement makes a mockery of the DoJ and american justice in general. The ultimate irony of the "settlement" is that Microsoft has now secured a monopoly on public school children. Institutionalizing a monopoly is a comic and fitting end to the litigation.

As you are well aware, members of Citizens for a Sound Economy have been unrelenting in our opposition to the federal governments antitrust case against Microsoft. For nearly 3 years, activists like myself have called, emailed, visited, and sent letters to the U.S. Department of Justice and to state attorneys' general offices explaining that Microsoft's actions did not harm consumers, but provided them with great benefits by lowering the cost and increasing the availability of software products. But that wasn't the point. The point is that Microsoft now pays millions annually in homage to its (now acknowledged) master in DC. It doesn't pay to succeed too well in America. And it's particularly poor practice to not even pay lip service, much less direct graft, to the DC mob. Microsoft made all these mistakes.

Once again, thank you for settling this unfortunate lawsuit. Good luck restoring your reputation.

Respectfully,

tom luther  
411 cutler street  
raleigh, NC 27603-1921

CC:

Citizens for a Sound Economy